AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus, comprising:

an outer steering column member;

an inner steering column member telescopically received in said outer steering column member; and

an electric actuator having an extendable and retractable drive rod coupled to said inner steering column member to effect telescopic adjustment of said inner steering column member within said outer steering column member;

said drive rod of said actuator being coupled to said inner steering column member by a bracket structure which is attached to said inner steering column member and which projects through an opening in a side wall of said outer steering column member, said opening extending along an axial direction of said outer steering column member to

[[a]] accommodate movement of said bracket structure therein during the telescopic adjustment of said inner steering column member.

14. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said bracket structure is clamped to said inner steering column member.

15. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said bracket structure includes an auxiliary member having a portion received within said inner steering column member, and a bracket body portion mounted to said auxiliary member and having a portion received in said opening of said outer steering column member.

16. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said bracket body portion is coupled to said auxiliary member by a bolt which exerts a force to clamp said bracket structure to said inner steering column member.

17. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said side wall of said inner steering column member is clamped between said auxiliary member and said bracket body portion.

18. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said bolt passes through aligned openings of said auxiliary member and said bracket body portion.

19. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said bolt is threaded to said auxiliary member.

20. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said bolt is threaded to said bracket body portion.

21. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said bolt has a tapered portion received in an opening of said auxiliary member.

22. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said bracket structure includes an auxiliary member having a portion received within said inner steering column member, and a bracket body portion mounted to said auxiliary member and having a portion received in said opening of said outer steering column member.

23. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said bracket structure is attached to said inner steering column member without welding.

24. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said outer steering column has a stopper portion cooperable with said bracket structure to limit telescopic movement of said inner steering column member.

25. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated telescopic steering apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said stopper portion is constituted by a peripheral wall of said opening in said outer steering column member.

26. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus, comprising:

a steering shaft;

a steering column having said steering shaft rotatably supported therein;

said steering shaft having a front end connected to a universal joint and said steering column having a front end rockably supported to a vehicle body, such that said steering column and said steering shaft are integrally tiltable;

a tilt rocking member rockably supported to the vehicle body and having a slide frame portion formed therein;

a slide portion projecting from said steering column and slidably received in said slide frame portion; and

an electric actuator pivotally coupled to one of said vehicle body and said steering column, and having a drive rod which is pivotally connected to said tilt rocking member;

said drive rod being extendable and retractable to effect rocking movement of said tilt rocking member and thereby tilt said steering column and said steering shaft, with said slide portion sliding along said slide frame portion.

27. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said tilt rocking member includes a U-shaped member that embraces said steering column from beneath said steering column.

28. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 27, wherein an intermediate portion of said U-shaped member comes into contact with said steering column at a tilt ascent limit.

29. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said slide frame portion includes an elongate hole formed in said tilt rocking member and a resin or plastic guide portion attached to said elongate hole.

30. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said slide portion includes a resin or plastic slider attached to said steering column, said slider being received in said elongate hole in slidable contact with said guide portion.

31. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said slider is received on a shaft portion of a member attached to said steering column.

32. (Previously Presented) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said member attached to said steering column is a pin.

33. (New) An electrically actuated tiltable steering apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said bracket structure is attached to an interior portion of said inner steering column member.